A

BILL

To prevent improper Perſons from having Arms in *Ireland*.

Note.—*The Figures in the Margin denote the Number of the Folios in the written Copy.*

1 WHEREAS it has been found neceſſary to prevent improper Perſons from having Arms in *Ireland*, and Proviſions have been made for that Purpoſe by different Acts of Parliament; Preamble.

And whereas the ſaid Acts are to ceaſe on the Firſt Day of Auguſt next; BUT it is expedient that the ſaid Proviſions ſhould be continued and amended and embodied into one Act of Parliament; Acts will expire 1ſt of Auguſt.

Be it therefore Enacted by the KING's Moſt Excellent MAJESTY, by and with the Advice and Conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame, That every Perſon in *Ireland*, who hath or ſhall have Arms in his or her Poſſeſſion at the Time of the paſſing this Act, or at any Time before the Seſſions of the Peace for their reſpective Counties, which ſhall be held next after the ſaid and who ſhall not have regiſtered the ſame according to the Proviſions of an Act, made in *Ireland* in the Thirty-eighth Year of His Majeſty's Reign, intituled "An "Act for amending an Act, paſſed in the Thirty-ſixth Year of the Reign 2 "of His Majeſty, intituled, An Act more effectually to ſuppreſs Inſurrec- "tions, and prevent the Diſturbance of the public Peace," ſhall, at the ſaid Seſſions of the Peace which ſhall be held next after the ſaid Day of for the County, Town, or City wherein they ſhall reſide, reſpectively deliver, or cauſe to be delivered, in open Court, to the Juſtices then preſent, a written Notification, ſigned by him or her, ſpecifying therein the Place, Pariſh, Barony, or Townland, in which he or ſhe ſhall be then reſident, or if in a County of a Town or City, the Pariſh, Townland, or Street in which he or ſhe keeps Arms, and the Place or Places where the ſame are uſually kept, and the Number and Deſcription of ſuch Arms, accompanied by an Affidavit, ſworn before ſome Juſtice of the Peace for ſuch County, Town, or City, by the Perſon ſigning ſuch Notification, that ſuch Notification is true, and that he or ſhe believes that he or ſhe is by Law Perſons having Arms ſhall deliver a Liſt thereof in Manner herein directed, accompanied by an Affidavit; and

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Juſtices may grant Licences to retain the ſame.

entitled to keep Arms, which Notification and Affidavit ſhall be read aloud in open Court; and if the Juſtices then preſent, or the Majority of them ſhall conſider the Perſon delivering ſuch Notification by Law entitled to keep Arms, and to be a fit and proper Perſon to keep Arms, they ſhall thereupon ſign and deliver to ſuch Perſon a Licence, authorizing ſuch Perſon to keep Arms, and ſpecifying therein, if they ſhall think fit, the Number and Deſcription of Arms which ſuch Licence is to authorize him or her to keep, and ſhall deliver ſuch Notification, ſpecifying at the Foot or Back thereof the Number and Deſcription of Arms, if the ſame ſhall be ſpecified in the Licence, to the acting Clerk of the Peace, who ſhall regiſter the ſame in Books (or in a Book, if in a County of a Town or City) One whereof to be kept for every Barony or Half Barony in the County, in Alphabetical Order, the Names and Places of Abode of every Perſon making ſuch Notification, according to their reſpective Baronies, or Half Baronies, where the Place of Abode ſhall be ſpecified to be in a Barony, or Half Barony, for which no Fee or Reward whatever ſhall be received by ſuch Clerk of the Peace; which Book ſhall be kept by ſuch Clerk of the Peace at his Office, in the County, Town, or City, and ſhall at all ſeaſonable Times, be open to the Inſpection of any Juſtice of the Peace of ſuch County, Town, or City, and from which every ſuch Juſtice ſhall be at Liberty from Time to Time to make ſuch Extracts as he ſhall deem fit. 3 4

Notifications, &c. to be delivered to Clerks of the Peace, who ſhall regiſter them.

Juſtices at Seſſions may grant Licences for keeping Arms to Perſons who make Application and Affidavit as before.

And be it further Enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for the Juſtices of the Peace, upon an Application in Writing, ſigned by any Perſon for a Licence to keep Arms, ſpecifying in like Manner his or her Reſidence, accompanied by an Affidavit, ſworn by the Perſon ſigning the Application, that he or ſhe believes he or ſhe by Law is entitled to keep Arms, to ſign and deliver at any Seſſions of the Peace to be held for the County, Town, or City, in which ſuch Perſon reſides, a Licence, authorizing ſuch Perſon to keep Arms, ſpecifying therein, if they ſhall think fit, the Number and Deſcription of Arms which ſuch Licence is to authorize him or her to keep, which Application, with the Number and Deſcription of Arms endorſed thereon, if the ſame ſhall be ſpecified in the Licence, ſhall be delivered by them to the acting Clerk of the Peace, who is required to regiſter the ſame in like Manner as a Notification, for which no Fee or Reward whatſoever ſhall be received by the Clerk of the Peace. 5

Penalty on Perſons who ſhall have Arms not regiſtered after Time limited.

And be it further Enacted, That any Perſon who ſhall, after the ſaid Seſſions of the Peace for the County, Town, or City, where he or ſhe ſhall reſide, which ſhall be held next after the ſaid Day of have in his or her Cuſtody any Arms that ſhall not have been regiſtered as aforeſaid, ſhall, upon being convicted thereof on the Teſtimony of Two credible Witneſſes on Oath before any Magiſtrate, for the Firſt Offence forfeit the Sum of to be levied by Sale of the Goods and Chattels of ſuch Perſon by the Warrant of ſuch Magiſtrate, or be impriſoned by ſuch Magiſtrate, for the Space of and for the Second and every other Offence ſhall forfeit the Sum of to be levied in like Manner, or be impriſoned for the Space of and all ſuch Arms ſhall be forfeited to the Uſe of His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors. 6

Inventory of Arms kept to be delivered to Juſtices as often as ſhall be required.

And be it further Enacted, That any Perſon who ſhall make ſuch Notification as aforeſaid of his having Arms, or ſhall obtain ſuch Licence as aforeſaid, ſhall, at any Time when required by any Juſtice of the Peace in *Ireland*, deliver to ſuch Juſtice an exact Liſt or Inventory of all the Arms in his or her Poſſeſſion, verified by his or her Affidavit, to be made before ſuch Juſtice,

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tice, and so from Time to Time as often as he or she shall be so required.

Justices may withdraw Licences, and cause Names to be erased, and give Notice to such Persons.

And be it Enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Justices of the Peace at any Sessions to withdraw any Licence theretofore given, and to cause the Name of such Person, as they in their Discretion shall at such Sessions deem an improper Person to be intrusted with Arms, to be erased out of the Registry of Arms, and cause a Notice to be served on such Person, or to be posted on the Dwelling House specified in the said Registry to be the Residence of such Person, signed by any one of the Justices of such Session, and by the Clerk of the Peace, that such Licence is withdrawn.

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Persons served with such Notices who do not deliver their Arms to neighbouring Magistrates, shall be liable to Forfeiture and Punishment.

And be it Enacted, That if any Person on whom such Notice shall be served, shall not within Hours after Service of such Notice upon him or her, or at his or her Dwelling House as aforesaid, deliver to the next resident, or some neighbouring Magistrate at his Place of Abode, all such Arms as were so registered, such Person shall be deemed to have in his or her Custody Arms that have not been registered, and shall be subject and liable to the Forfeiture and Punishment hereinbefore enacted against such Offence.

Justices, &c. may enter Houses on Suspicion of having Arms unregistered, &c.

And be it further Enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for any Justice of the Peace, or for any Person authorized thereto by Warrant under the Hand of any Justice of the Peace, to search for Arms in the House or Houses or Grounds of any Person in *Ireland*, not having made such Notification, or obtained such Licence as aforesaid, and whom he shall have reasonable Ground to suspect of having Arms; and also in the House or Houses or Grounds of any Person who, having made such Notification, or obtained such Licence, shall refuse or neglect to deliver such List or Inventory, or whom he shall have reasonable Ground to suspect to have delivered a false List or Inventory, or whose Licence shall have been withdrawn as aforesaid; and in case of Refusal of Admission to break into every such House, and every Part thereof by force, and if any Arms shall be found in the Possession of any such Person respectively, save in the House of a Person giving such List or Inventory, and if any Arms shall be found in the House of such Person giving such Inventory, and not specified therein, to seize and carry away the same for the Use of His Majesty: Provided always, that nothing in this Act contained shall affect any Persons serving in His Majesty's Regular or Militia Forces, or in any Yeomanry Corps, or any Privy Councillor, or Member of Parliament, or Peace Officer, in respect to any Arms that they may have in their Custody.

8

Not to extend to Regular or Militia Forces, &c.

9

Blacksmiths to enter their Names and Forges, and obtain Licences at Sessions;

AND whereas it is necessary to provide more effectually against the making of Pikes, and such like offensive Weapons; BE it therefore Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Person or Persons whatsoever, after the said Day of shall exercise the Trade of a Blacksmith, who shall not have previously registered his Name, and the Place where his Forge is situated, at some Sessions of the Peace for the District in which such Forge is used, and shall also have obtained a Licence from the Justices at such Sessions, authorizing him to use and follow the Trade of a Blacksmith; which said Registry and Licence is to be made, kept, and granted, in Manner and Form as the Registry of Arms and Licence for using Arms hereinbefore mentioned.

and Registry and Licence to be made, kept, and granted, as for Arms

Justices at Sessions may withdraw Licences from

And be it further Enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Justices of the Peace, or the Majority of them, at any Sessions of the Peace to

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Blackſmiths, if they make Pikes or Pike-Heads after obtaining Licences.

to withdraw ſuch Licence from any Blackſmith, if it ſhall be ſatisfactorily proved to them that ſuch Blackſmith hath made, or knowingly ſuffered to be made in his Forge any Pike or Pike Head after he ſhall have ſo obtained a Licence, and regiſtered his Forge as aforeſaid; and if any Blackſmith ſhall uſe any Forge without ſuch Regiſtry thereof, and Licence as aforeſaid, he ſhall for ſuch Offence and Offences incur and be liable to the Penalties hereinbefore mentioned that Perſons uſing or having in their Cuſtody unregiſtered Arms are by this Act ſubject to.

Penalty on Perſon or Perſons making or aſſiſting in making Pikes, &c. without Licence from the Ordnance.

And be it Enacted, That any Smith, or other Perſon, who ſhall make or aſſiſt in making any Pike, Pike Head, Dirk, Dagger, Spear, or Inſtruments ſerving for Pikes or Spears, without a Licence from the Maſter General, Lieutenant General, or Surveyor General of the Ordnance, ſhall, being thereof lawfully convicted, be adjudged

Provided always, that nothing therein contained, ſhall extend or be conſtrued to extend to any Perſons having or making ſuch Weapons as aforeſaid, in the Service or for the Uſe of His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors.

Juſtices may enter Houſes on Suſpicion of having ſuch Pikes, &c. and Penalty thereon.

And be it further Enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful for any Juſtice of the Peace of any County, City, or Town in *Ireland*, or for any Perſon authorized by the Warrant of any ſuch Juſtice, to ſearch for Pikes, Pike Heads, Daggers, or Dirks, in any Houſe or Place where ſuch Magiſtrate ſhall have reaſonable ground to ſuſpect ſuch Weapons to be, and if any ſuch ſhall be found, it ſhall and may be lawful for ſuch Magiſtrate, or the Perſon ſo authorized, to ſeize, carry away, and deſtroy the ſame; and the Perſon or Perſons in whoſe Poſſeſſion, Cuſtody, or keeping ſuch Weapons ſhall be found, being thereof convicted by due courſe of Law, ſhall be adjudged

Manner of raiſing, levying, and diſpoſing of Penalties.

And be it further Enacted, That all the pecuniary Penalties in this Act ſpecified ſhall be raiſed and levied by Sale of the Goods of the Perſon offending, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of any Juſtice of the Peace in and for the County in which ſuch Offence ſhall be committed; and the Penalties ſo to be levied ſhall be by ſuch Juſtices or Juſtice handed over to the Treaſurer of the County in which ſuch Sums are levied, to be applied to ſuch Purpoſes as the Grand Jury at any enſuing Aſſizes ſhall think proper to preſent.

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